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A NEW MARSUPIAL FROM EL SALVADOR.[1]

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Among the apparently new mammals included in the collections made by R. A. Stirton in El Salvador during the last three years, there is a local form of the interesting and rather rare marsupial genus *Chironectes*, which is described below.

Chironectes argyrodytes, sp. nov.

SALVADOR WATER OPOSSUM.

Type.—Male adult; no. 12,986, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Hacienda Zapotitan, Dept. La Libertad, El Salvador, C. A.; altitude 1,500 feet; "caught in Rio Sucio"; June 20, 1927; collected by R. A. Stirton.

Characters.—Very similar externally to *Chironectes panamensis* Goldman, but darker (blackish brown rather than Chestnut-Brown[2]), with the dark masses in the pattern of the dorsal pelage larger, and with the intervening broken bands of gray proportionally reduced in width, the band across the hips being especially reduced and inconspicuous. Gray of sides and narrow, broken dorsal bands, darker and clearer (less drab). Whole underparts, except dusky furring on base of tail, silky, silvery white. Terminal 34 mm. of tail of type flesh color.

Skull similar to *panamensis*, but with longer and much wider nasals, and with broader, heavier rostrum throughout. Maxillary tooth row longer, the premolars in particular being less crowded, and the molar series (especially m^2 and m^3) slightly heavier. Upper edge of the middle portion of the zygoma less incurved, and the postorbital constriction greater. Shape of frontals specialized; produced posteriorly along the sagittal line in a narrow tongue running back between the parietals. The comparatively long braincase, pointed posterior end of the nasals, and other cranial details which skulls of *argyrodytes* share with those of *panamensis* serve to distinguish the former, as well as the latter, from their South American neighbors.

Measurements of type.—Total length, 675 mm.; tail, 358; hind foot, 70;

[1] Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.

[2] Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912.

ear, 22. Skull: condylo-basal length, 73.5; basilar length of Hensel, 66.4; zygomatic breadth, 45.2; nasal length, 34.3; greatest breadth of nasals, 13.2; interorbital constriction, 15.4; postorbital constriction, 8.0; palatal length, 47.0; maxillary tooth row, 33.0; upper premolar series, 13.0; rostrum breadth in plane of *pm*,[1] 15.8.

Range.—Type locality, so far as definitely known.

Remarks.—The use of the binomial in naming this animal does not imply that the writer feels it will ultimately prove specifically distinct from *panamensis*. On the contrary, the relationship is obviously close, specimens from Costa Rica proving this point conclusively by combining some of the characters of each form, although on the whole they are closer to *panamensis*. However, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the South American forms of the genus to give an intelligent opinion as to the proper specific allocation of either of the Central American subspecies. The genus has been taken as far north as southern Mexico,[1] but much more material is needed before we can hope to have an adequate idea of either its geographic variation or limits of distribution in Central America.

Specimens examined.—Type and 5 topotypes.

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[1]Goldman, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 69, 1920, No. 5, p. 45.